

-14-  
Claims

1. A personal watercraft comprising:  
a hull including a bottom hull and a top deck secured over the bottom hull,  
5 the hull defining an engine compartment sized to contain an internal combustion engine for powering a jet propulsion unit, the jet propulsion unit including a steerable water discharge nozzle, the top deck having a raised, longitudinally extending seat adapted to accommodate an operator in straddle fashion,  
wherein the top deck has a footwell disposed on either side of the seat,  
10 wherein the footwell has a bottom width and an outside wall vertical height,  
wherein the ratio of the footwell outside wall vertical height to the footwell bottom width is greater than 1.8.
- 15 2. A personal watercraft as in claim 1, wherein the ratio of the footwell outside wall vertical height to the footwell bottom width is greater than about 1.85.
3. A personal watercraft as in claim 1, wherein the ratio of the footwell  
20 outside wall vertical height to the footwell bottom width is greater than about 1.9.
4. A personal watercraft comprising:  
a hull including a bottom hull and a top deck secured over the bottom hull,  
the hull defining an engine compartment sized to contain an internal combustion

-15-

engine for powering a jet propulsion unit, the jet propulsion unit including a steerable water discharge nozzle, the top deck having a raised, longitudinally extending seat adapted to accommodate an operator in straddle fashion,

wherein the top deck has a footwell disposed on either side of the seat,

5 wherein the footwell has a bottom width and an outside wall vertical height,

wherein the ratio of the footwell outside wall vertical height to the footwell bottom width is greater than 1.6, and the footwell outside wall vertical height is greater than 11 inches or the footwell bottom width is greater than 6 inches.

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5. A personal watercraft as in claim 4, wherein the footwell outside wall vertical height is greater than 11 inches.

6. A personal watercraft as in claim 4, wherein the footwell bottom width is  
15 greater than 6 inches.

7. A personal watercraft as in claim 4, wherein the footwell outside wall vertical height is greater than 11 inches and the footwell bottom width is greater than 6 inches.

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8. A personal watercraft comprising:

a hull including a bottom hull and a top deck secured over the bottom hull, the hull defining an engine compartment sized to contain an internal combustion engine for powering a jet propulsion unit, the jet propulsion unit including a

-16-

steerable water discharge nozzle, the top deck having a raised, longitudinally extending seat adapted to accommodate an operator in straddle fashion,

wherein the top deck has a footwell disposed on either side of the seat,

wherein the footwell has a bottom width, an outside wall vertical height,

5 and an inside wall angle inward from vertical,

wherein the ratio of the footwell outside wall vertical height to the footwell bottom width is greater than 1.4, and the footwell inside wall angle inward from vertical is greater than 8 degrees.

10 9. A personal watercraft as in claim 8, in which the ratio of the footwell outside wall vertical height to the footwell bottom width is greater than 1.5.

10. A personal watercraft as in claim 8, in which the ratio of the footwell outside wall vertical height to the footwell bottom width is greater than 1.6.

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11. A personal watercraft comprising:

a hull including a bottom hull and a top deck secured over the bottom hull, the hull defining an engine compartment sized to contain an internal combustion engine for powering a jet propulsion unit, the jet propulsion unit including a

20 steerable water discharge nozzle, the top deck having a raised, longitudinally extending seat adapted to accommodate an operator in straddle fashion,

wherein the top deck has a footwell disposed on either side of the seat,

wherein the footwell has an outside wall vertical height and an inside wall angle inward from vertical,

-17-

wherein the footwell outside wall vertical height is greater than 9 inches and the footwell inside wall angle inward from vertical is greater than 8 degrees.

12. A personal watercraft as in claim 11, wherein the footwell outside wall  
5 vertical height is greater than 10 inches.

13. A personal watercraft as in claim 11, wherein the footwell outside wall vertical height is greater than 12 inches.

10 14. A personal watercraft as in claim 11, wherein the footwell inside wall angle inward from vertical is greater than 9 degrees.

15. A personal watercraft comprising:  
a hull including a bottom hull and a top deck secured over the bottom hull,  
15 the hull defining an engine compartment sized to contain an internal combustion engine for powering a jet propulsion unit, the jet propulsion unit including a steerable water discharge nozzle, the top deck having a raised, longitudinally extending seat adapted to accommodate an operator in straddle fashion,  
wherein the top deck has a footwell disposed on either side of the seat,  
20 wherein the footwell has a footwell outside wall vertical height and an outside wall angle outward from vertical,  
wherein the footwell outside wall vertical height is greater than 12 inches and the footwell outside wall angle outward from vertical is less than 10 degrees.

-18-

16. A personal watercraft as in claim 15, wherein the footwell outside wall angle outward from vertical is less than 9 degrees.

17. A personal watercraft comprising:

- 5 a hull including a bottom hull and a top deck secured over the bottom hull, the hull defining an engine compartment sized to contain an internal combustion engine for powering a jet propulsion unit, the jet propulsion unit including a steerable water discharge nozzle, the top deck having a raised, longitudinally extending seat adapted to accommodate an operator in straddle fashion,
- 10 wherein the top deck has a footwell disposed on either side of the seat, wherein the footwell is formed between an inner wall and an outer wall, wherein the footwell has a length, and a top width between the inner wall and the outer wall,
- wherein the footwell has a portion along its length having a top width
- 15 greater than 12 1/2 inches.

18. A personal watercraft comprising:

- a hull including a bottom hull and a top deck secured over the bottom hull, the hull defining an engine compartment sized to contain an internal combustion
- 20 engine for powering a jet propulsion unit, the jet propulsion unit including a steerable water discharge nozzle, the top deck having a raised, longitudinally extending seat adapted to accommodate an operator in straddle fashion,
- wherein the top deck has a footwell disposed on either side of the seat, wherein the footwell is formed between an inner wall and an outer wall,

-19-

wherein the footwell has a length, and a top width between the inner wall and the outer wall,

wherein the footwell includes a bottom surface, the bottom surface having a substantially horizontal portion beside the seat extending forward to a bend,

5 and an upwardly angled portion extending forward of the bend;

wherein the footwell has a section along its length having a front disposed near the bend and a rear disposed at least 2 feet to the rear of the bend, wherein the footwell section has a top width that increases forwardly over the length of the section, wherein the top width near the section front is greater than 10 1/2

10 inches.

19. A personal watercraft as in claim 18, wherein the footwell top width near the bend is greater than 12 inches.

15 20. A personal watercraft as in claim 18, wherein the footwell section has a top width that increases continuously over the length of the section, wherein the footwell top width near the bend is greater than 12 inches.

21. A personal watercraft as in claim 18, wherein the footwell top width near  
20 the bend is not less than 13 inches.

22. A personal watercraft as in claim 18, wherein the footwell section has a top width that increases continuously over the length of the section, wherein the footwell top width near the bend is greater than 13 inches.

23. A personal watercraft comprising:

a hull including a bottom hull and a top deck secured over the bottom hull,  
the hull defining an engine compartment sized to contain an internal combustion  
5 engine for powering a jet propulsion unit, the jet propulsion unit including a  
steerable water discharge nozzle, the top deck having a raised, longitudinally  
extending seat adapted to accommodate an operator in straddle fashion,

wherein the top deck has a footwell disposed on either side of the seat,

wherein the footwell is formed between an inner wall and an outer wall,

10 wherein the footwell has a length, and a top width between the inner wall  
and the outer wall,

wherein the footwell includes a bottom surface, the bottom surface having  
a substantially horizontal portion beside the seat extending forward to a bend,  
and an upwardly angled portion extending forward of the bend;

15 wherein the footwell top width near bend is greater than 11 1/2 inches.

24. A personal watercraft as in claim 23, wherein the footwell top width near  
the bend is greater than 12 inches.

20 25. A personal watercraft as in claim 23, wherein the footwell top width near  
the bend is not less than 13 inches.